

Gibson County Board of Commissioners
Regular Session
June 03, 2025

The Gibson County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on June 03, 2025, at 4:45 p.m. at the Southwest Annex.

Prayer was led by Vice President Montgomery followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Commissioners Present: Nick Burns, Kenneth Montgomery, and Chuck Lewis (absent)

Minutes: The meeting minutes of May 20, 2025 were approved as presented. Commissioner Montgomery motioned to approve the minutes, seconded by Commissioner Burns. The motion passed 2-0.

Claims: Total claims presented on 06/03/2025 were approved for payment by a motion from Commissioner Montgomery, seconded by Commissioner Burns. The motion passed 2-0.

Department Reports

Animal Services – Sharon Werne told Commissioners that they will break ground on June 14th at 3p.m. for Phase I of their building project. On June 21st Princeton Veterinary Hospital will host the wellness clinic for reserved animals to receive their vaccination for a \$20 fee. Ms. Werne told everyone that the shelter is overstocked, and they would like the public to foster the animals to help with their overcrowding.

Sheriff Vanoven reported on their staffing. They have no open Deputy positions; five open Corrections positions which is prompting them to consider moving the jail to twelve-hour shifts while they are in this shortage; there are two open Communications positions; Community Corrections is fully staffed.

EMS provided their run volume.

COMMISSIONERS OLD BUSINESS

Jail Project Update – This update was given by Chief Deputy Ballard, and he reported that the federal lawsuit has officially been dismissed. The new jail is up and operating.

EMS Building Update – Arica and AJ gave a progress report on the EMS Building. Concrete is finished; they hope to be completely moved into the building by mid-month.

The Well, She is Strong Update – Emilie Brown provided this update. They are a 501c3 located in Gibson County. She brought two mothers forward to let them tell their stories of how the program has helped. The goal of the program is to build better moms for the community. They have had 21 people participate in their program, but without financial support, they will not be able to continue or start a fall class. In December Ms. Brown requested that Commissioners provide monetary support, however, no action has been taken, and she requests action on this matter. She suggested the money be provided from the opioid funds. Attorney Spindler explained that the opioid board had taken this item under advisement; thus, the Commissioners cannot act on it until the opioid board makes the request.

COMMISSIONERS NEW BUSINESS

Re-precincting in City of Princeton and Renaming/Renumbering of Precincts – Attorney McDonald was representing the City of Princeton and explained that new district lines needed to be moved and revised as set forth by Indiana Code due to shifts in population. These revised district lines will become effective after the Indiana Election Division approves them, providing no objections are filed by a voter of the county by noon ten days after publication of notice. If an objection is filed by a county voter, the County Commissioners will not be allowed to adopt until a proper hearing is conducted.

If Commissioners approve the re-precincting for the City of Princeton, an order to establish precincts would also need to be signed by Commissioners; Clerk Smith provided this order.

Clerk Smith felt that since this re-precincting action was being taken, it would be a good time to also rename/renumber precincts in Patoka Township. This order will also become effective upon filing with the Indiana Election Division. If approved, this action will reduce precincts within Patoka Township from fourteen down to eight. It would allow all voting to be conducted at the Toyota Events Center. This will reduce polling location setup, tear down, poll workers and ballot styles. Clerk Smith would like this action piggy-backed onto Attorney McDonald's request for action. They presented maps to the Commissioners. When the action is final, all information will be updated in the voter registration system and letters will go out to all voters in Patoka Township to notify them of their new precinct district and polling location. The Indiana Election Division will post notices in the paper.

Commissioner Burns motioned to approve the ordinance and order to establish precinct boundaries in the City of Princeton and an order to rename/renumber precincts, seconded by Commissioner Montgomery. The motion passed 2-0.

Attorney Spindler asked the Commissioners if they wished to suspend the rules and pass the ordinance upon first reading. Commissioner Burns made this motion to suspend & pass, seconded by Commissioner Montgomery. This vote was 2-0.

Ride Solutions – Becky Guthrie thanked commissioners for funding their project this year. She feels it is important to keep this service in the county as many residents rely on them. They request a donation of \$5,000 in 2026; it is thought that the health department plans to contribute \$4,000.

Commissioner Montgomery motioned to fund \$5000, seconded by Commissioner Burns. The motion passed 2-0.

Traffic Study for Stop Sign Intersection 700 S & 500 W – The Sheriff Department will conduct this study and return the information to Commissioners.

Medical Leave (1) – Commissioner Montgomery motioned to approve this medical leave, seconded by Commissioner Burns. The motion passed 2-0.

EMS Building Payment Approved – Commissioner Burns motioned to approve the J. Koberstein invoice in the amount of \$92,909.30, seconded by Commissioner Montgomery. The vote was 2-0.

Advertise for Fuel Bids – Commissioner Montgomery motioned to allow the advertisement of fuel bids, seconded by Commissioner Burns. The vote was 2-0.

Citizen Comments –

Mark Fehrenbacher requested that Commissioners allow him to decorate and post the Declaration of Independence and DAR literature in the Gazebo July 2-7th to reflect on the July 4th Holiday. He will provide the setup and removal so the County or the public does not incur any costs. Commissioner Montgomery motioned to authorize Mr. Fehrenbacher to provide this service, as Veterans Director Pickersgill has approved the idea, seconded by Commissioner Burns. The vote was 2-0.

A concerned citizen in the audience reminded Commissioners that the coal mine had not opened the closed road. Commissioner Montgomery explained that the mine is still working in that area and would like to keep it closed for one more year. This item will be brought up when all three commissioners are present.

With no further discussions, Commissioner Montgomery motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Burns. The vote to adjourn was 2-0.

Minutes from June 03, 2025



Nick Burns, President



Kenneth Montgomery, Vice President



Chuck Lewis, Commissioner



ATTEST: Mike Watkins, Auditor



Commissioner's Meeting June 03, 2025

